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Billing Guide for Tobacco and Nicotine Use and Cessation

How to Use This Billing Guide

This billing guide is intended for behavioral health providers and primary care clinics with integrated behavioral health services.

- This guide focuses on billing Oregon Medicaid for adults. Information on tobacco and nicotine cessation for minors can be found on page 8 of this document.
- Coverage requirements for Medicare and private insurance are listed below.
- Please check a patient's eligibility for services if using this guide when billing an insurer other than Medicaid.
- To find current reimbursement rates for the Medicaid codes, listed in this document, please visit the [OHP Fee-For-Service Fee Schedule](#).
- This document will be updated at least twice a year.

Definitions of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Medicaid	Medicare is federal health insurance for people 65 or older, and some people under 65 with certain disabilities or conditions.
Medicare	Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that helps cover medical costs for some people with limited income and resources.
Private Insurance	Private health insurance refers to health insurance plans marketed by the private health insurance industry, as opposed to government-run insurance programs.
Diagnosis Codes	<p>ICD-10 codes consist of up to seven characters that classify medical diagnoses in a specific way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The first three characters—a letter and two numbers—classify the disease or health condition. ● After the first three characters is a period. ● The next three numbers describe the cause of the disease, how severe it is, or where in the body it is located (including whether it is on the left side, right side, or both). ● Each ICD-10 code starts with a capital letter from A to Z. For the purposes of this guide, important letters to note include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ F: Mental and behavioral disorders ○ Z: Factors influencing health status and contact with health services
Procedure Codes	<p>“Procedure” code is a catch-all term for codes used to identify what was done to or given to a patient (surgeries, durable medical equipment, medications, etc.). CPT codes, also called Level I HCPCS codes, are used to bill physician services and they are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). CPT/Level I HCPCS codes are five position numeric codes. Level II HCPCS codes are five position alpha-numeric codes. Level II HCPCS were developed by CMS and are primarily used for equipment, supplies, or non-physician services that are not covered by an AMA CPT code.</p>

Coverage of Services

Coverage by Insurance Type

Medicaid and CCOs

Coverage of counseling and tobacco cessation medications are required as part of the ACA's Essential Health Benefit under preventive and wellness services (ALA, 2018). Oregon is a Medicaid expansion state, and no cost-sharing is permitted. Coordinated Care Organizations and Managed Care Plans may have tobacco cessation services and programs. This rule does not limit or prescribe services a Prepaid Health Plan provides to clients receiving OHP benefits.

Medicare

Two cessation attempts are covered every 12 months. For each cessation attempt, providers may bill up to four intermediate or intensive counseling sessions (ALA, 2021).

Private Insurance

Private insurers are required to provide evidence-based tobacco cessation counseling and interventions to all adults and pregnant women. Private payer benefits are subject to specific plan policies. ORS 743A.170 requires that "health benefit plans" provide at least \$500 in payment, coverage, or reimbursement for tobacco-use cessation programs.

Billing codes may change. If users of this guide encounter issues when billing Oregon Medicaid, please check the [OHP Fee-for-Service Fee Schedule](#).

Per [Oregon Administrative Rule 410-130-0190](#), tobacco treatment interventions may include one or more of these services: basic, intensive, and telephone calls.

Basic Treatment

- Generally provided during a visit for other conditions, and additional billing is not appropriate.
- Brief interventions during visit for other conditions, including < 6 minutes of support, encouragement, and counseling needed to assist with tobacco cessation efforts.
- Ask, advise, assess, assist, and arrange.

Intensive Treatment

- Covered if a documented quit date has been established.
- Limited to ten sessions every three months.
- Treatment is reserved for those clients who are not able to quit using tobacco with the basic intervention measures.
- Treatment may include (a) multiple treatment encounters (up to ten in a three-month period), (b) behavioral and tobacco cessation therapy products (e.g., nicotine patches, oral medications intended for tobacco cessation treatment and gum), (c) individual or group counseling, six minutes or greater.

Telephone Calls

- Can be reimbursed as a replacement for face-to-face counseling sessions with clients who are in intensive treatment.
- Treatment requirements include (a) the call must last six to ten minutes and provide support and follow-up counseling, (b) the call must be conducted by the provider or other trained staff under the direction or supervision of the provider, (c) enter proper documentation of the service in the client's chart.

Diagnostic Codes and Criteria

ICD-10-CM Codes:

These codes provide the diagnosis, or the reason for seeking healthcare. They are combined with CPT or HCPCS codes. The ICD-10 codes in this billing guide are F17 and Z diagnosis codes.

F17 and Z Codes:

Per the [American Lung Association](#) (2018), the first decision a provider must make when diagnosing for tobacco use is whether to use an ICD-10 F17 code or a Z code. The F17 codes are from the Mental and Behavioral Disorder category. The F17 codes are used if the patient is dependent on tobacco. The Z codes are used if there is NOT dependence on tobacco. The Z codes cannot be combined with an F17 code.

Diagnostic Coding with Tobacco Dependence:

F17.200 Unspecified product, uncomplicated

- 201 In remission
- 203 With withdrawal
- 208 Other nicotine induced disorders
- 209 Unspecified nicotine induced disorders

F17.210 Cigarettes, uncomplicated

- 211 In remission
- 213 With withdrawal
- 218 Other nicotine induced disorders
- 219 Unspecified nicotine induced disorders

F17.220 Chewing tobacco, uncomplicated

- 221 In remission
- 223 With withdrawal
- 228 Other nicotine induced disorders

F17.290 Other tobacco product, uncomplicated

- 291 In remission
- 293 With withdrawal
- 298 Other nicotine induced disorders
- 299 Unspecified nicotine induced disorders

Diagnostic Coding without Tobacco Dependence:**Z71.6 Tobacco abuse counseling (medical advice)****Z72.0** Problems related to lifestyle and tobacco use**Z87.891 History of nicotine or tobacco dependence**

Billable Treatment Codes

Individual Counseling, Classes, Screening, and Peer Services

Code	Description	Authorized User
99406	Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling visit; intermediate, greater than 3 minutes up to 10 minutes	CADC, CADC Intern, LHCP with 60 hours of SUD training
99407	Smoking and tobacco use cessation counseling visit; intermediate, greater than 10 minutes	CADC, CADC Intern, LHCP with 60 hours of SUD training
H0004	Behavioral health counseling and therapy, per 15 minutes	Certified SUD Program
H0038	Self-help/peer services, per 15 minutes	Certified SUD Program
S9453	Smoking cessation classes, per session *Not billable for Medicaid or Medicare members*	Qualified Nonphysician
T1023	Screening to determine the appropriateness of consideration of an individual for participation in a specified program, project or treatment protocol, per encounter *use for ASAM level of care tool*	CADC, CADC Intern, or Licensed LPC/LMFT with 60-hour AOD credential

Group Therapy or Counseling

Code	Description	Authorized User
90853	Group therapy; no time limit *Billable for Medicare and Private Insurance members*	Licensed QMHP
H0005	Alcohol and/or drug services; group counseling by a clinician *Billable for Medicaid members*	CADC, CADC Intern, LHCP with 60 hours of SUD training, Certified SUD Program

For telehealth, online, and phone-based care in a physical health visit, add modifier 95 to CPT codes. For telehealth, online, and phone based care in a behavioral or mental visit, add modifier GT to HCPCS codes H0004 or H0005 (**Encounter Type:** BH/MH Visit, **Place of Service:** DC Phone).

Additional Information

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Level of Care Tool:

This is NOT a standalone assessment but can be completed either in conjunction with an assessment or as needed for referral to higher level of care. Because an ASAM is a type of assessment, it should only be completed in collaboration with the client (i.e., should gather appropriate information from the client to inform the tool). Like any other kind of assessment, information can be gathered in person, via telephone, or via video/telehealth.

- If most of the session was spent doing individual therapy, bill for individual therapy as usual. Include a brief description of completing ASAM as part of the service note, including that most of the session was spent on individual therapy.
- If most of the session was spent on another service (ex. case management), bill for that service as usual. Include a brief description of completing ASAM as part of the service note, including that most of the session was spent on the other service.
- If you complete ASAM as part of a 180-day or other assessment update, bill for a regular assessment along with adding or changing a diagnosis.
- If you complete ASAM as a stand-alone service, bill T1023. Write a GIRP service note as usual, listing completion of ASAM as primary intervention, and refer the reader to the ASAM itself for additional information.

Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) Coverage:

There are a variety of available resources to understand NRT coverages in Oregon and nationwide. Per the CDC, Oregon is considered to have comprehensive NRT coverage under Medicaid. For patients with Medicare or private insurance, coverages may vary.

- [State Medicaid Coverage of NRT](#)
- [Medicare Coverage of NRT Fact Sheet](#)
- [NRT Prescribing Instructions for Oregon Pharmacists](#)

Coverage for Minors:

The [Oregon Quit Line](#) has confidential, youth-specific resources for minors who are seeking to stop using tobacco or nicotine products. In Oregon, Medicaid must cover any medically necessary services for patients under the age of 21, including tobacco and nicotine services. The diagnosis and treatment codes for minors receiving tobacco or nicotine cessation services are the same as the codes for adults receiving the same services. In Oregon, minors aged 15 and older can consent to treatment, including tobacco and nicotine cessation treatment, without parental consent. NRT is not currently approved for use by the FDA in people under the age of 18, though providers can opt to prescribe NRT to minors for off-label use.

- [OHP Comprehensive Child and Youth Benefit](#)
- [Youth Tobacco Cessation: Considerations for Clinicians](#)
- [Nicotine Replacement Therapy and Adolescent Patients](#)

Glossary of Terms

Acronym	Definition	Page
ACA	Affordable Care Act	3
ALA	American Lung Association	3
AOD	Alcohol and Other Drug	6
ASAM	American Society of Addiction Medicine	6, 7
CADC	Healthcare Provider: Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor	6
CCO	Coordinated Care Organization	3
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	7
CPT Code	Treatment Code: Current Procedural Terminology	2, 4, 6
F17 Code	ICD-10 Diagnosis: Mental and behavioral disorders due to use of tobacco	4, 5

FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration	8
GIRP Service Note	Goals, Intervention, Response, and Plan Service Note	7
HCPCS Code	Treatment Code: Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System	2, 4, 6
ICD-10	Diagnosis Coding System: International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision	2, 4
LHCP	Licensed Health Care Provider	6
LMFT	Healthcare Provider: Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist	6
LPC	Healthcare Provider: Licensed Professional Counselor	6
NRT	Nicotine Replacement Therapy	7, 8
OHP	Oregon Health Plan	1, 3, 8
ORS	Oregon Revised Statute	3
SUD	Substance Use Disorder	6
Z Code	ICD-10 Diagnosis: Symptoms a patient displays do not point to a specific disorder but still warrant treatment	4